THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. Sir.

Protection or the indigenous industry of sophisticated diagnostic equipment

3336. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenous manufacturers of sophisticated diagnostic equipment like whole body scanners have complained to Government against duty-free inmports of machines from multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Some of the indigenous manufacturers of medical equipments have represented against the existing provisions in the Customs Notification allowing duty free import of medical equipments by Government Hospitals/Charitable Institutions against NMIC certificate from the Head of the Institution/DGTD and essentiality certificate from DGHS.

(c) Indigenous manufacturers are allowed to import components for the manufacture of medical equipment at concessional rate of duty.

Complaints Against inflated local call Bill

3337. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain the general causes of subscribers' complaints against inflated local call bills in cities;

(b) if so what are the main causes that have come to Government's notice in this regard; and

(c) what system has been devised to check the diversion of lines to the detriment of unwary subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main causes of excess billing complaints are as indicated below:—

1. Clerical errors and wrong feeding to computer.

2. Excess registration of calls in the meters because of technical faults.

3. Faulty circuit conditions.

4. Diversion of lines|malpractices.

(c) Although very few cases of diversion of lines have come into the notice of Department, the Department has taken the following steps to prevent such malpractice:—

1. Sealing of meters

2. Locking of Meter Rooms

3. Restriction of entry into M.D.F. Rooms

4. Locking of Distribution Points

5. Raising the level of Distribution Points

6. Formation of mobile vigilance squads to check malpractice..

Post and Telegraph office Buildings

3338. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph Offices located in their own buildings and those in rented buildings in urban and rural areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal to go in for their own buildings; and

(c) if so, what is the target date for this both in urban and rural areas?